ABSTRACT

"SPATIO – TEMPORAL CHANGES IN POPULATION CHARACTERISTICS OF RATNAGIRI DISTRICT: A GEOGRAPHICALANALYSIS"

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- ## Introduction:

The word 'Geography' was first used by the Greek scholar Eratostheries in the third century B.C. The word 'geography' is derived from a Greek word 'geographia' which stems from two words, viz. 'geo' mean the earth and 'graphia' means description. It means that geography is the description of the earth. In this sense geography is the science of earth surface. In the course of time this branch of knowledge is very much developed. Therefore, the nature and scope of geography becomes very vast. Hence, geography is divided into two main branches. One of them is Physical Geography and another is Human Geography. Physical geography is concerned with the study of physical factors and human geography is related to the study of human activities in relation to physical environment.

- ## Population Geography Meaning and Scope:

Population Geography is a recently developed specialized sub – branch of human geography the subject matter and full content of this sub – field has been debatable. However, man has been considered the most undisputed and well established core of population Geography and the Various aspects of man have come to emerge as it subject matter scope of this branch is so vast that today it is traced as an independent specialized branch. Geography is a study of Nature and distribution of physical and cultural Factors over the surface of the earth. Population itself is an important aspect which various over the surface of the earth in population geography we study of population its growth characteristics, its religious and Linguistic Composition sex ratio, ago composition, standard of living, economic structure and migration etc. We also study adaptation of various human groups to their respective environments in different parts of the world. Various aspects of population have been studied since long.

For the understanding nature and scope of population geography study of different definitions given by different geographers is essential.

1)John I Clarke:

In his book 'Population Geography' Clarke defined population geography as, *"Population geography is the study of areal variations in population and their relation with physical, cultural and economic phenomena."*

Clarke pointed out that population geographers concerned with physical cultural and economic aspects, therefore, the study of population also related with these aspects. He separated population geography from demography.

2) Woods:

Woods in his book 'Population Analysis in Geography' has given the definition of population geography According to Woods "*Population geography is the analysis of various population attributes like fertility, mortality"*. Though, woods have given the simple definition of population geography, he throws light on the future development in population studies and population geography. In his book he opens up new areas of population research for further population geographers.

3) DaniedNoin:

DaniedNoin defined Population Geography as,*"distribution of population, components of its growth and characteristics are the main concerned of population geography"*.DaniedNoin is agreed with the Trewartha's views regarding population geography. He clearly pointed out that population Geography is mainly concern with the distribution, Characteristics and the growth of population[7].

4) Melezin:

Melezin defined Population Geography as, *"The study of Population Distribution and Productive relationships existing within various population groups. The settlement network and its fitness, usefulness, and effectiveness for productive goals of society"*.Melezen pointed out that population distribution is represented by a network of settlements because types of production primarily changes in the settlements patterns He noted that geographic study of population should be identified with the analysis of territorial groping of settled place.

5)G. T. Trewartha:

According to Trewartha, *"Population geography is concerned with understanding the regional differences in the earth covering of people"*. In his definition Trewartha stressed that there are regional differences on the earth surface due to which we can find differences in human groups.

All the above definitions of population geography described the nature and scope of population geography population geographers in their definitions explained the different aspects of the study of the population geography distribution of population, growth of population characteristics of population etc. Factors related with the geographical phenomena of the particular region. These population aspects changes spatially and temporally. Social economic, cultural factors also effects on on the distribution, growth and characteristics of population and vice – versa.

6) Sawant and Athavale:

According to them, *'Population geography studies the distribution of population over the surface of the earth along with its characteristics and its relation with geographical personality of the region'*

Sawant and Athavale simply defined population geography and they have given special attention on the characteristics of earth surface, geographical features of a region and its relation to distribution of population.

- **Choice of the Study Region**

The Maharashtra state is one of the progressive state of India and is divide in six administrative divisions and one of them is Konkan division Konkan administrative division includes seven districts i.e. Mumbai city, Mumbai suburban, Thane, Palghar, Raigad, Ratnagiri, Sindhudurga, The present research problem is concerned with Konkan region.

Ratnagiri district is situated in the Western part of Maharashtra and lies between $16^0 30'$ N and $18^0 04'$ north Latitudes and $73^0 02'$E and $73^0 52'$ east Longitudes it is surrounded by Gujarat state and Nashikdistrict to the north, Ahmadnagar, Pune,

Satra, Sangli, Kolhapur district to the east, Goa state to the south and Arabian Sea to the West.

It has an area of 30,746 square km which constitutes near about 10 percent of the total area of the state. The total population of the study region is 28,739,397. The density of population in Ratnagiri district is 207 persons per square km. The district is divided into. Three revenue divisions i.e. Ratnagiri and (Dapoli) Chiplun, Ratnagiri district include 09 tahsils of Maharashtra i.e. Ratnagiri, Rajapur, Lanja, Devrukh (Sangmeshwar), Chiplun, Guhagar, Khed, Dapoli, Mandangad There are 1519 villages and 8 city in the study region. Over 85% of the land surface in Ratnagiri district is hilly. All rivers in the district originate in the Sahyadri ranges and flow from east to west and merge in Arabian Sea.

It has 167 km Long Sea coast which contains many beaches, pats, and forts, 180km Long Sahyadri hill range, contains hills, hill forts, wild life and many places of scenic beauty. Number of creeks – ideal and safe for water spots, boating, fishing, swimming camping etc.

Hills, sea shores, creeks, rivers hot water springs, forests, waterfalls, religious places attract tourists pilgrims from great distance Alphorns Mangoes (Hapus), cashew nut Kokum, coconut etc. are famous for their quality and taste.

Characteristic konkan cuisine, especially non vegetarian dishes of fish, prawns and seafood are mouth – watering.

All these physical factors on the distribution of population and other characteristics of population in the Ratnagiri district. Therefore this district is selected for the present study.

- **Aims and Objectives of the Present Study:**

The specific objectives of the present study are:

1) To study the spatial and temporal variation in growth of population in the study region.

2) To study the temporal and spatial distribution of population within the study region.

3) To study the different densities of population in the study Region.

4) To study the structure of population in the Ratnagiridistrict.

- **Data Source and Methodology:**

For the period of 1991 to 2011 the data collected and used comes from primary and secondary sources. The primary data is the raw data collected through personal interviews. Secondary data obtained from Socio-Economic Review, District Census Handbooks, Gazetteers and different government offices.

Thus, the data collected through primary and secondary sources, were processed and presented by statistical and cartographic techniques. Cartographical and chorological methodology adopted for the study. These evolve the description and interpretation of regional patterns of population and it is present through the choropleth method. To analyze the data different statistical equations and methods applied.

The density of population is calculated to analyze the degree of population concentration. It is expressed in various ways to know population and resource relationship.

$$Arithmetic\ density = \frac{Totalpopulation}{Totalarea\ (sq.km.)}\ X\ 100$$

Decadal population growth has been calculated by using following formula:

$$PG = \frac{Pn-Po}{Po}\ X\ 100$$

PG = population growth

Pn= population of the tahsil in present Censes.

Po= Population of the tahsil in past Censes.

To calculate sex ratio following formula has been used.

$$1.\ \ Sex\ ratio = \frac{Pm}{Pf} X\ 100$$

Pm = Number of males in a population

Pf = Number of females in a population

- **Review of Literature:**

If would be more useful for comparing the views and ideas expressed in our findings in the Light of work done earlier. Before one starts working on particular concept, its origin and development should be considered.

Brief account of the work done related to population research is given below:

Shrivastav R. K. And Koshal R (1998):

Authors examined 'The Trends in sex Ratio and Various sex Differentials such as Rural – Urban Age and Caste of seine District (M.P.) the spatial pattern has also been analyzed taking village as a unit. The study presents an analysis of 1600 small size village. The sex ratio has recorded a continuous decreasing trend since the beginning of the present century. The rate of decline is relatively higher than that of Madhya Pradesh. The sex ratio is higher in rural areas in comparison to urban areas. The study shows that the sex ratio various by age due to varying incidence of mortality among the two sexes in the region.

Gatade. D. G. (1999):

In his research paper entitled Geographical Analysis of Rural population Concentration in Maharashtra has studied the distribution pattern of rural population in Maharashtra. The study reveals that the concentration of rural population is more in the districts of western Maharashtra were the proportion of land under irrigation is more and road density is also higher. The concentration of population is less in hilly and forested areas particularly in Marathwada and Vidarbha.

Chavan, M. B. and Shoudane, M. (2000):

Authors have evaluated, 'Seasonal Variation in Birth Rate in ChopadaTahsil of Jalgaon District (M. S.)'. This work is based on primary sources of data. Month-wise and seasonal birth rates have been calculated for the year 1999. The study shows highest birth rates in rainy season and lowest in summer season. Month-wise analyses of birth rate reveals highest birth rates in July and lowest in February.

Bhagat, R.B. and Sharma, Summit (2001):

Authors focused on 'Quality of Life, Gender Bias and Fertility Behavior in Urban Haryana A Case Study of Rohatak City'. The study concluded that around one-third households of Rota city are characterized to low or very low quality of life there is a decrease in actual and desired family size but gender bias still prevails among households with high quality of life. He points out that households belonging to high quality of life want at least one son and in order to achieve it they are likely to resort to even female feticide in the wake up of modern medical techniques. This further reaffirms that with development gender bias may not necessarily decline. Improvement in the status of women through access to employment, educational, and property rights are essential for reducing their dependency and for achieving gender equality in society.

Barade, C. S. (2001):

He has analysed population problems of Goa in his thesis entitled 'An Analysis of Population Problems in Goa'. His work is based on primary and secondary sources of data. In his work, he has analysed the impact of Portuguese rule on the population characteristics of Goa. He has also studied the impact of tourism on population problems of Goa. In his research, he observed that due to equal family laws introduced by Portuguese to all religious communities, higher age at marriage, difficulties in getting divorce and remarriages were some of the factors responsible for the lower birth rate than those for Maharashtra and India during the Portuguese rule for the state of Goa.

Prasanth, R. (2003):

Prasanth has studied demographic characteristics and socio-economic development in million cities of India. He has correlated the demographic characteristics of million cities with the development level in India. The study is based on secondary sources of data collected from census of India. Mean, quartile and standard deviation techniques have been used to analyse the population characteristics. The study concludes that the million cities in western and south central India have high density and high growth rates. Densities in northern and eastern India are not all that high though growth rates are high.

Phadke, V. S. and Mukherji, D. (2003):

Author has examined, 'Urbanization and Development in Maharashtra From 1961 to 1991'. The paper attempts to study urbanization in Maharashtra in relation to relevant dimensions of development over four decades after its reorganization on a linguistic basis. The relationship between urbanization and other indicators of development has been examined with the help of linkage analysis. The study reveals that urbanization in the state is still fueled by tertiary activities, particularly by trade, commerce and manufacturing.

Yadav J. P. (2004)

Has examined composition of population, growth and density of populationin India.

Hassan, M. I. (2005)

Has focused on the demographic characteristics of population in relation to geographical factors.

Dr. R. C. Chandana (2007)

Has studied the different concepts characteristics; determinants and patterns of population.

Himansha S. R. and Ponda P. K. (2008).

Have studied gender development in India.

Dr. S. B. Ashture (2009)

Have studied spatio temporal characteristics of population and relationship between food resource and population.

Dr. U. T. Gaikwad (2009)

Has focused on the different characteristics of scheduled caste and scheduled tribe population in Nanded district.

K. S. James, ArvindPandey, Dhananjay W. Bonsod and LekhaSubaiya

(2010)

Have edited a book entitled' population, Gender and Health in India.

- **ChapterScheme :**

The present study is divided into seven chapters.

1) Introduction.

2) Physical and Socio - Economic Setting of the Region.

3) Growth of Population in Ratnagiri District.

4) Spatial Distribution of Population in Ratnagiri District.

5) Structure of Population in Ratnagiri District.

6) Case Study.

7) Conclusions, Problems and Suggestions.

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